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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1957

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1957 — 1958

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

A. C. LESTER, The Triangle, Wantage Road, Wallingford.
H. WALTERS, Highgrove, Station Road, Wallingford.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A. T. EVANS (*Chairman*), Lark Hill Farm, Wantage.
LT.COL. J. INNES, J.P., The Ham, Wantage.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. E. A. BENNETT, 120 Kynaston Road, Didcot.
MRS. E. M. COLLIER, Collier's Cottage, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.
H. T. MERRITT (*Vice-Chairman*), 54 Foxhall Road, Didcot.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

DR. C. W. HART-JONES, Wheatsheaf House, East Ilsley.
A. G. MULFORD, Brookside, Upton.
M. F. TURNER-BRIDGER, The Turnpike House, Blewbury.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

J. L. SALE, C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage.
A. G. WALTER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Littleholme, Thames Street,
Wallingford.

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

G. V. SPOONER, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

E. M. HAMILTON, M.B.E., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

Secretary

MRS. V. J. DREW (Part-time)

Municipal Offices, Wallingford. Telephone 2225.

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

Public Health Inspector

E. N. SINCLAIR, M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Municipal Offices, Wallingford. Telephone 2184

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector

C. G. GAYFER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

District Public Health Inspector

L. SPROSTON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Mr. Gayfer retired in November, 1957, after 26 years' service and was succeeded by Mr. Sproston).

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

Public Health Inspector

L. OLIVER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Portway, Wantage. Telephone 456.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector

E. H. ROSSER, CERT. P.H.I.B., C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. D. BUTTON, CERT. P.H.I.B., C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices, Belmont, Wantage. Telephone 211.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

The population of the combined districts shows an increase almost double that of the previous year. The birth rates have remained higher than the rate for England and Wales except in the Wantage Urban District where they approximate each other. Although higher than the 1956 figure, the stillbirth rate remains below the National level.

In all areas death rates were considerably below the figure for England and Wales. There were fewer deaths than in 1956, but an analysis of the causes reveals an increase in the number from lung cancer, other cancers, coronary diseases, angina and ulcers of the stomach and duodenum.

The infant mortality rate of 17.9 is the lowest since 1949 and compares very favourably with the rate of 23.1 for England and Wales.

With an increased birth rate, fewer deaths and a lower infant mortality, 1957 can be described as a satisfactory year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Measles accounted for almost 91% of all infectious diseases notified during the year. There were 3 cases (all children) of paralytic poliomyelitis, which although in no instance fatal has left its mark in the form of residual paralysis and deformities.

During the summer the area was visited by the Mobile Mass Radiography Unit. 11,206 used this service, and 15 active and 32 non-active cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were revealed.

In addition 4 lung cancers were diagnosed, one of which was operable.

ASIAN 'FLU

An epidemic of Asian 'Flu swept the area during the latter part of the year. The disease was of a mild nature, the majority of cases recovering in two or three days. However it had its complications for the elderly and resulted in 6 deaths during the last quarter of the year.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS

262 children born between 1947 and 1954 were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year with British vaccine. This number has been considerably increased in 1958 with the introduction of American imported vaccine.

There was a 27% increase in the number of infants and children immunised against diphtheria. Long may this continue!

SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

It is the professional duty of all medical, nursing and teaching personnel to make the following facts available to the public:

- (1) Those who smoke run a greater risk of lung cancer than those who do not.
- (2) Cigarette smoking is more dangerous than smoking tobacco in other ways.
- (3) The risk increases with the number of cigarettes smoked.
- (4) Giving up smoking reduces the risk.

Cancer of the lung is costing us 20,000 lives annually and much money in treatment, care, loss of work and skill.

In his recent address to the Royal Society Health Conference on "Health Education in relation to Smoking and Lung Cancer", Mr. Ronald W. Raven, Surgeon to Westminster Hospital, states "Non smokers must be protected from tobacco pollution in all confined spaces: these include cinemas, halls, buses, railway carriages, restaurants and aircraft". Indeed a non-smoking compartment on British Railways which does not reek of stale tobacco is a rare find these days.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

So long as our diet contains large quantities of carbohydrate dental caries will remain with us. To reach the moon would however probably be easier than to alter the national diet. In any case a far simpler preventive measure is available to us.

Evidence has shown that raising the fluoride content of water supplies to the optimum level will help to reduce dental caries. Four towns in Britain have been taking part in a Ministry of Health experiment to study the effects of adding sodium fluoride to water supplies as a means of reducing dental decay. In the face of conclusive evidence from America how long do we have to experiment?

Surely the time has arrived for the Ministry of Health to introduce legislation to make the addition of fluoride to water supplies compulsory, or are we to continue seeing dental caries in children increasing year by year and the number of school dentists decreasing? Here also lies a method of reducing the dental bill of the nation in the future, therefore let us get on with it.

TELEVISION

In my report last year I mentioned the case of a four-year-old girl who on occasions watched television till all hours of the night. I am happy to report this child is keeping somewhat better hours. It would appear the improvement is due to two things:

- (a) The publicity accorded to the matter in the daily press.
- (b) The fact that the child now attends school and is possibly more tired in the evenings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Once again it gives me pleasure to record my gratitude to the Public Health Inspectors for their valued help and their contributions to this report: to the County Medical Officer of Health and other colleagues: to the staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for the numerous bacteriological investigations, and to the medical practitioners for their continued interest and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. M. HAMILTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated 1955	Mid-year 1956	Population 1957	Difference
Wallingford Borough	760	3740	3750	3810	+ 60
Wantage Urban	2797	5560	5600	5660	+ 60
Wallingford Rural	21790	16610	16790	17130	+ 340
Wantage Rural	74181	15030	15380	15820	+ 440
Total	99528	40940	41520	42420	+ 900

BIRTHS

District	No. of Live Births		1957 Total	Live Birth Rate per 1000 pop.	Corrected Birth rate per 1000
	Male	Female			
Wallingford Borough	39	37	76	19.9	19.7
Wantage Urban	46	53	99	17.5	16.1
Wallingford Rural	168	157	325	19.0	20.1
Wantage Rural	181	158	339	21.4	21.2
Combined Districts	434	405	839	19.8	
England and Wales					16.1

The corrected birth rates for each area take account of the presence of sterile population in institutions for the mentally ill or mentally deficient.

STILL BIRTHS

District	Number of Stillbirths			Stillbirths rate		
	1955	1956	1957	1955	1956	1957
Wallingford Borough	2	2	2			
Wantage Urban	3	2	5			
Wallingford Rural	4	6	6			
Wantage Rural	6	4	5			
Total	15	14	18	20.5	18.4	21.0
England and Wales						22.5

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

District	Number of Illegitimate Births per annum				
	1938	1945	1952	1956	1957
Wallingford Borough	3	5	5	4	3
Wantage Urban	3	17	5	3	9
Wallingford Rural	11	26	21	16	13
Wantage Rural	7	30	15	21	19
Total	24	78	46	44	44

5.1% of all births were illegitimate.

DEATHS

	No. deaths 1957			Crude death rate per 1000 pop.		Corrected death rate	
	M.	F.	Total	1956	1957	1956	1957
Wallingford Borough	65	74	165	44.0	36.5	8.8	8.4
Wantage Urban	19	36	55	12.0	9.7	9.1	7.5
Wallingford Rural	103	84	187	12.8	10.9	9.1	7.4
Wantage Rural	86	47	133	8.6	8.4	9.3	9.0
Total	273	241	514	13.9	13.6		
England and Wales						11.7	11.5

The corrected death rates take into account the age and sex distribution of the population and in addition the presence of any residential institutions in the area.

INFANT MORTALITY

	No. of Infant Deaths (under 12 mths.)		Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	
	1956	1957	1956	1957
Wallingford Borough	—	3		
Wantage Urban	4	—		
Wallingford Rural	6	5		
Wantage Rural	5	7		
Total	15	15	20	17.9
England and Wales			23.8	23.1

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Wallingford Borough M. F. Total	Wantage U.D. M. F. Total	Wallingford R.D. M. F. Total	Wantage R.D. M. F. Total	C'bined Districts Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	— — —	— — —	2 — 2	2 — 2	2
Tuberculosis, Other	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Syphilitic Disease	— — —	— — —	1 1 2	— — —	2
Diphtheria	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Whooping Cough	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Measles	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	— — —	— — —	1 3 4	— — —	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5 — 5	1 2 3	5 1 6	4 — 4	18
Malignant neoplasm, breast	— 2 2	— 2 2	— 1 1	— — —	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— 1 1	— 1 1	— 2 2	— 1 1	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7 7 14	3 2 5	10 12 22	6 5 11	52
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	—
Diabetes	— 1 1	— — —	2 2 4	1 — 1	6
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	17 23 40	2 9 11	10 8 18	7 8 15	84
Coronary disease, angina	10 5 15	5 5 10	16 16 32	22 2 24	81

Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	2	4
Other heart diseases	1	10	11	2	4	6	22	25	47	5	12	81
Other circulatory diseases	1	5	6	—	—	—	1	1	2	6	2	16
Influenza	1	1	2	—	2	2	2	—	2	1	—	7
Pneumonia	7	7	14	3	—	3	4	2	6	4	2	29
Bronchitis	—	—	—	3	2	5	1	1	2	4	2	13
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2	—	1	1	3	—	3	5	2	13
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5	—	—	—	3	—	3	3	—	11
Pregnacy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	10	18	—	6	6	11	5	16	6	6	52
Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	5
All other accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	6	4	3	13
Suicide	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	4
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	65	74	139	19	36	55	103	84	187	86	47	514

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Notifiable Disease	Wal'f'd Borough	Wantage U.D.	Wal'f'd R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1956	1957
Measles	95	151	268	357	24	871
Whooping Cough	—	3	3	20	82	26
Puerpural Pyrexia	1	—	—	1	3	2
Paralytic Polio	—	—	3	—	1	3
Non-paralytic Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	4	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	9	2
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	7	—	1	—	7	8
Scarlet Fever	—	—	5	7	11	12
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	1	1
Pneumococcal Meningitis	—	—	1	—	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	2	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	62	1
Malaria, B.T.	—	—	—	—	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary T.B.	4	8	9	7	28	28
Non-pul. T.B.	—	—	2	1	8	3
Total	107	162	294	396	246	959

Of all infectious diseases notified in 1957 Measles accounted for 90%.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1957

	Under 1 year	1—4 yrs.	5—14 yrs.	15 yrs. and over.	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary	107	10	4	—	121
Re-vaccination	—	8	1	8	17
Wallingford R.D.					
Primary	158	14	3	5	180
Re-vaccination	—	1	6	8	15
Wantage U.D.					
Primary	83	7	7	6	103
Re-vaccination	—	5	1	18	24
Wantage R.D.					
Primary	148	19	9	10	186
Re-vaccination	—	6	3	25	34
Total	496	70	34	80	580

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1957

	Under 1 year	1—4 yrs.	5—15 yrs.	Total
Wallingford Borough				
Primary	88	16	—	104
Booster	—	8	16	24
Wallingford R.D.				
Primary	171	47	2	220
Booster	—	12	4	16
Wantage U.D.				
Primary	96	14	5	115
Booster	—	12	3	15
Wantage R.D.				
Primary	129	19	1	149
Booster	—	5	7	12
Total	484	133	38	655

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION, 1957

	Under 1 year	1—4 yrs.	5—15 yrs.	Total
Wallingford Borough				
Primary	69	1	—	70
Booster	—	4	7	11
Wallingford R.D.				
Primary	160	42	2	204
Booster	—	4	7	11
Wantage U.D.				
Primary	52	12	1	65
Booster	—	4	7	11
Wantage R.D.				
Primary	125	19	1	145
Booster	—	3	5	8
Total	406	89	30	525

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS, 1957

	Year of birth								Totals
	1954	53	52	51	50	49	48	47	
Wallingford Borough	8	5	11	6	9	4	5	4	52
Wallingford R.D.	17	20	19	18	22	14	16	19	145
Wantage U.D.	5	3	6	8	9	9	2	1	43
Wantage R.D.	3	7	2	3	1	5	—	1	22
Total	33	35	38	35	41	32	23	25	262

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies. The proposal which the Council had under consideration in 1956 to provide an emergency supply in case of breakdown at the Waterworks was implemented during the year by connecting the mains of the Wallingford R.D.C. to those of the Borough. This scheme was extended to supply houses on the higher parts of the Council housing estate and to the houses of the new U.K.A.E.A. estate. The remainder of the town continued to be supplied with water from the Corporation's five boreholes at the Waterworks in Station Road.

Forty-seven samples of chlorinated water in distribution were taken for bacteriological examination. Forty-three samples were satisfactory, but four samples showed evidence of slight contamination. Of the four samples showing slight contamination, one was from a tap where the anti-splash nozzle was intentionally left on when taking the sample, and the analysts' report stated that the contamination included some faecal type coliform organisms.

Two samples of raw water from the bore holes showed evidence of slight contamination.

Two samples of water were taken for chemical analysis. The water is of medium purity but very hard.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped to the Wallingford R.D.C.'s disposal works at Cholsey for treatment. This arrangement has worked well throughout the year.

Six hundred yards of sewer were laid to drain the new U.K.A.E.A. estate to the town's sewerage system.

REFUSE COLLECTION

House refuse is collected weekly and is disposed of at the Wallingford R.D.C. tip. Both the collection and disposal arrangements have worked perfectly throughout the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Owing to the death of the rodent operative and pending the appointment of a new rodent operative by the Wallingford R.D.C. jointly with the Borough, such visits as were necessary in the Borough were carried out by the Henley R.D.C. between 1st

August and 31st December, 1957. The Borough Council is extremely grateful to the Henley R.D.C. for their kind assistance.

	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Re-visits</i>
Dwelling Houses	27	108
Local Authority Premises	12	105
Business Premises	6	6
Agricultural Premises	—	1
Sewers	Owing to the circumstances referred to above, test baiting of sewers has been deferred until the Spring of 1958.	

MILK SUPPLIES

Two dairies in the Borough are registered for the retail sale of milk.

The total number of designated licences in force is:

- 1 Tuberculin Tested
- 2 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)
- 1 Pasteurised
- 3 Supplementary licences

MILK SAMPLING

Five samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, and all samples satisfied the appropriate tests.

ICE CREAM

Fifteen premises in the Borough are registered for the sale of ice cream, and one registered for manufacture. Three samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination and all were placed within Grade 1.

FOOD PREMISES

TYPES OF BUSINESS

- (a) Butchers 8
- (b) Grocers 10
- (c) Fried Fish Shops 2
- (d) Fishmongers 2
(including 1 under c)
- (e) Greengrocers 6
- (f) Cafes 7
(including 1 under c)
- (g) Hotels catering for non-residents 5
- (h) Bakers 5
(including 1 under b)

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECT. 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a)	Sale of Ice Cream	15
(b)	Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
(c)	Manufacture of Sausages	8

INSPECTION OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Thirty inspections have been carried out.

One sample of Danish pasteurised crystal albumen was taken for bacteriological examination and found to be contaminated with Salmonella Typhi-Murium.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY—FOOD HYGIENE

No educational activity in relation to clean food has taken place during the year.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the Local Authority with their refuse.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-52

All premises selling and manufacturing ice cream in the Borough comply with the Regulations.

BAKEHOUSES

There are five bakehouses in the Borough.

Informal action was taken in respect of unclean conditions at one bakehouse.

HOUSING AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Nine houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year. No houses were erected by private enterprise. Seven houses were erected by Housing Associations.

The U.K.A.E.A. estate of 122 houses was substantially completed during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughtering is carried on at two slaughter houses in the Borough.

The following table gives details of carcasses and offal inspected:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	298	8	87	562	474
Number inspected	298	8	87	562	474
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	2	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	27	2	—	25	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9	25	3	4.5	5.3
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	1	—	—	7
Percentage of which some part or organ was condemned	3.7	12.5	—	—	1.7
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The following amounts of unsound food were also inspected and voluntarily surrendered:

Tinned foods—196½ lbs.
 Fresh beef—15 lbs. 7 oz.
 Fresh pork—6 lbs. 3 oz.
 Fresh fish—11 stone.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1938

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	39	18	—	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Three Sanitary Conveniences were found unsuitable or defective and all were remedied.

BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open-air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge. In addition they provide facilities for river bathing on the same site. During the year a borehole was sunk, and both the swimming pool and paddling pool are now provided with a supply of pure water from the borehole.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

Arrangements are being made to afford a supply of water to the Wantage Radiation Laboratories of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and for this purpose 464 lineal yards of 4" dia. spun iron main are being laid from the Stockham Housing Estate to the entrance of the Laboratories.

The supply of water from the boreholes at The Manor Road Pumping Station was found to be adequate to meet all demands but, purely as a precautionary measure, a prohibition was imposed from 13/7/57 to 5/9/57 on the use of water for washing cars and watering gardens by means of hose pipes.

The construction of a new control house and working platform around the boreholes at the Pumping Station is in progress.

23 Samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination. 2 samples showed evidence of slight contamination with coliform organisms of the faecal type and 2 samples showed slight contamination with coliform organisms of the non-faecal type.

SEWERAGE

Except for minor extensions to sewers to meet housing demands no sewerage schemes have been put in hand.

Difficulties are still being experienced in drying sludge at the Bradfield Sewage Disposal Works due to the lack of sufficient drying beds.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the area has been maintained throughout the year.

The salvage of waste paper was discontinued on the 31st December, 1957 and the whole system of collection of House and Trade Refuse revised.

Tipping at Gypsy Lane is now completed and steps are being taken to level and seal off the whole of the tip.

The new tip on 'S' Hill is being worked satisfactorily and a Bristol Tipmaster has been purchased for use on it.

RODENT CONTROL

Rodent treatment has been undertaken as follows:

(a) Council owned houses	—
(b) Private houses	13
(c) Business Premises	—
(d) Sewer manholes	64
(e) Refuse tip	10

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

A site at the rear of Grove Street, licenced for 27 moveable dwellings, has been regularly inspected.

The sanitary and ablution arrangements are satisfactory and well maintained.

3 moveable dwellings are situated in other parts of the area for which licences have been obtained.

PRIVATE NURSING HOMES

There are no private nursing homes in the area.

HOUSING

	1956	1957
Number of permanent houses erected	6	41
Number of permanent houses erected by Local Authority	—	32
Number of permanent houses erected by Private Enterprise	6	9
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—
Number of families on housing lists	168	183

The selection of tenants is primarily by a points system.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Number of persons dealt with under Section 47	Nil
Number of persons dealt with under Section 50	Nil

PUBLIC BATHS

Number in district—One.

Source of water—Mains supply.

How often emptied—Once weekly.

Method of purification—None.

Water samples taken—None.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

Number of premises disinfected during the year—5.

Reason—At the request of the occupiers.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse in the area and licences to slaughter animals have been granted to four persons.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	130		47	212	165
Number inspected	130		47	212	165
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—		—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	5		—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.85		—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—		—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	4		—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.08		—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—		—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—		—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—		—	—	—

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than slaughterhouses, to be unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered:

2 tins Pork Luncheon Meat, 1 tin Mixed Luncheon Meat, 2 tins Tomatoes, 1 tin Peas, 1 tin Mayonnaise, 7 lbs. Coconut, 19 lbs. Figs, 1 jar Pork and Beef Paste, 1 tin Baked Beans, 1 jar Ox Tongue and Beef Paste, 1 jar Peanut Butter, 2 tins Corned Beef, 8 lbs. Cooked Silver Side, 1 tin Stewed Steak, 1 tin Brisket of Beef, 1 tin Minced Pork.

Unsound meat is sterilised and used for animal food. Other unsound foods are buried under Council supervision.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 17 licensed premises in the area 11 of which have been inspected involving 29 visits. Improvements have been carried out to the sanitary accommodation at 4 of these premises.

SHOPS ACT

Number of shops in the district	93
Number of shops inspected	76
Number of inspections	87

FOOD AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 50 food premises in the area as follows:

Butchers	7
Wet Fish Shops	3
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers and General Stores	16
Greengrocers	3
Bakers and Confectioners	3
Bakehouses	3
Sweet Shops	5
Hotels	4
Restaurants	4

41 of these premises have been inspected with a total of 52 visits. Informal action under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-56 has been taken in respect of 2 of these premises and improvements have been carried out.

ICE CREAM

17 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All licensed premises have been inspected during the year, the total number of visits being 43. The premises were found to be satisfactory in respect of the storage and sale of ice-cream. 11 samples of ice cream were obtained all of which were placed in provisional grade (1).

MILK SUPPLIES

There are two retailers of milk in the district. One holds supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk the other licences to sell Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested and Sterilised milk.

There is one retail dairy in the district which is frequently inspected.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING 1957

Number of different premises inspected	303
Number of visits made	369
Number of complaints received	67
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	19
Number of nuisances abated	56
Number of notices: Formal	1
Informal	19

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not in- cluded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	15	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	—	—
Total	38	30	3	—

Cases in which defects were found—Three.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork—Nil.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

No major works were carried out on the water supply with the exception of an inter-connection between the Council's main and that of the Borough of Wallingford to enable a supplementary supply to be given to the latter.

An abundance of water has enabled the Council to close down the South Moreton and Cholsey Pumping Stations for the greater part of the year.

The analyses both chemical and bacteriological of all water samples have been satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

No major work has been carried out in connection with sewerage and sewage disposal. The effluents from the Didcot and Cholsey Sewage Works have been maintained in a condition satisfactory to the Thames Conservancy Board.

PUBLIC BATHS

There are two small swimming baths in the area, one at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, the other at the premises of the Wallingford Caravan Co., Shillingford Hill. In each case the source of water is from the Thames. Purification is by the Chlorated method. The pool owned by the Wallingford Caravan Co., was not open to the public in 1957.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is from the kerbside once per week. There are no charges for the removal of trade refuse. A fee of £1 per annum is charged for additional service in collecting from the back door, where sickness or a long carry is involved. Disposal is by controlled tipping in disused gravel pits, which are situated in open country. The surface of the tip is consolidated by the use of a bull-dozer.

A new refuse collecting vehicle of 25 cu. yards capacity is to be purchased by the Council in 1958. The Council has also agreed to the employment of an additional loader to ease the strain on the existing staff.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

During the year one house was disinfected following a death from cancer.

DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation was carried out in two houses in 1957. One house was infested with fleas and the other with bugs.

SHOPS AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

(1) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

General Grocery	.	.	.	42
Butchers	.	.	.	10
Chemists	.	.	.	4
Cafes	.	.	.	4
Public Houses	.	.	.	30
Travelling Food Vehicles	.	.		11
Greengrocers	.	.	.	8
Confectioners	.	.	.	6
Fish	.	.	.	4
Hotels with catering licences	.			7

(2) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of ice cream—1.
 Sale of Storage of ice cream—40.
 Fish Frying—4.
 Sausage Making—7.
 Bakehouses—5.
 Number of Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949-54—4.

(3) INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Approximately 90 inspections of registered food premises were made during 1957.

(4) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

There is no Clean Food Guild in the area. No lectures on food hygiene have been given to the trade or the general public.

(5) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOODS

Condemned food, other than meat, is disposed of by burial on the Council's refuse tip. Condemned meat is collected from the slaughterhouses by approved Contractors. All meat unfit for human consumption is stained with acid green before it leaves the slaughterhouse.

(6) SPECIAL EXAMINATION OF STOCKS OR CONSIGNMENTS OF FOOD

No special examinations of stocks or consignments of food have been necessary during the year.

(7) ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-52

A reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations is made elsewhere in the report.

(8) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955-56, ETC.

In 1957 a complaint was received from a member of the public concerning a sliced wrapped loaf of bread, which appeared to have a dark stain running through its centre. The Public Analyst reported upon the stain as being "unclassified dirt". The retailer of the bread, who was also the manufacturer, was prosecuted under Section 2 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for selling bread not of the nature or substance demanded. A conviction was secured, the Baker being fined £10 with costs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three private slaughterhouses in the district. One of these is substandard, and has not been in use during the period under review. Meat inspection has been carried out at the other two slaughterhouses throughout the year. Owing to staff difficulties in the latter part of 1957, it was possible to achieve a standard of inspection of 84.6% only. Details of work done are outlined in appendix I.

MILK SUPPLIES

The district is a specified Area under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order of 1954. All milk retailed in the district is designated as follows:

- 4 Retailers of Pasteurised & T.T. Pasteurised milk.
- 1 Producer/Retailer of Pasteurised & T.T. Pasteurised milk.
- 2 Producer/Retailers of T.T. milk.

During 1957 no milk samples were taken. Sampling was discontinued in the early part of the year owing to the increased cost of petrol. Staff difficulties prevented any sampling work in the latter part of the year.

ICE CREAM

During 1957 there were 40 premises in the district registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. All these premises are equipped with refrigerators, thermostatically controlled. The ice cream is pre-packed. The standard of cleanliness in these premises was satisfactory.

There is one small factory in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream. These premises are equipped with modern machinery, and the method of manufacture complies with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

No complaints were received during the year concerning the standard of cleanliness on ice cream vehicles operating in the district. Owing to staff shortage no samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological analysis during 1957.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During the year no persons were buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the above Act.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In the latter part of 1957 complaints were received concerning atmospheric pollution in the vicinity of Didcot Railway Station, by smoke from railway engines. Representations were made to British Railways Authority on this matter. The complaint was still being investigated at the end of the year.

SANITARY CONDITION OF PUBLIC HOUSES

During the past few years the brewers have spent large sums of money on improving their properties in this district. The sanitary condition of most public houses in the area is now satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING 1957

During the year 1957, notices were served in respect of the following defects:

General housing defects	.	.	7
Drainage Defects	.	.	8
Defective dustbins	.	.	33
Food Hygiene Regulations	.	.	2
Factories Acts	.	.	3
			—
		Total	53

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1957

	<i>Treatments and Visits</i>
Dwelling Houses	2208
Business Premises	360
Local Authority Premises	29
Agricultural Properties	96
Sewers	—

The Council's Rodent Officer died in August, 1957, and the post was vacant for the remainder of the year. Assistance was received from the Abingdon R.D.C. during the period October—December, 1957, for the treatment of Council properties such as the refuse tip, sewage works, etc.

APPENDIX I.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND MEAT CONDEMNED, 1957

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	840	173	425	5402	2115
Number inspected	660	116	270	4676	1556
<i>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticercus Bovis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	4	3	4	2
Part Carcase or organs condemned	96	12	—	160	103
Percentage of the number inspected affected	14.5	13.7	1.1	3.5	6.7
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcase or organs condemned	28	7	—	—	42
Percentage of the number inspected affected	4.2	6.0	—	—	2.7
<i>Cysticercus Bovis</i>					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Part Carcase or organs condemned	4	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected	0.6	—	—	—	—
Weight condemned:					
Whole Carcases	.	.	.	1941	
Part Carcases	.	.	.	558	
Heads and Meat	.	.	.	1202	
Offal	3048	
Total				6749 lbs.	

APPENDIX II.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR
HUMAN CONSUMPTION

<i>Fresh</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
Meat		90
Fish		28
Fruit and Vegetables . .		6270
		<hr/>
		6388
<i>Canned Foods</i>	<i>No. of cans</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Meat	8	52
Fish	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fruit and Vegetables	857	9769
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	865	9821

Total weight of food surrendered:
7 tons; 4 cwts.; 2 qrts.; 25 lbs.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948**

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	34	36	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	4	4	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	38	40	2	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecut'ns instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Inadequate ventilation	—	1	—	1	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

There were 5 Outworkers: 3 making wearing apparel and 2 jewellery.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

MILK

There are 13 distributors of milk, with 9 dairies registered in the district. Inspections of these dairies have been carried out regularly throughout the year.

All milk sold in the District is subject to the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations. Licences permitting the sale of milk under Special Designations were in force during the year as follows:

Tuberculin Tested	.	.	.	12
Pasteurised	.	.	.	9
Sterilised	.	.	.	2

25 samples were taken of designated milk. All were satisfactory.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 75 catering establishments in the District. This number includes licensed premises. There is, in addition one mobile snack bar regularly in use in the area.

61 visits have been made to these premises. Conditions have been found to be mainly satisfactory.

In the few cases where contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found, proprietors of the premises concerned willingly co-operated with the Officers of the Council.

SHOPS

There are 57 shops in the district. Of these all but 2 are food shops. In the course of the year all these have been inspected as a result of the introduction of the new Food Hygiene Regulations and the opportunity was taken to inspect under the Shops Act at the same time. In no case was it found that meals were taken on the premises. The majority of shops are owner-occupied and no additional labour is employed. In the few cases where additional labour is employed this is recruited locally and employees take meals at home. During the year many improvements have been effected in relation to washing facilities. Hot water, soap and towels are required in all premises. Two shops have been rebuilt so far as sanitary arrangements are concerned as the result of the action of the Inspector.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

4 Slaughterhouses and 1 Knacker's yard are licensed and used in the District although the latter is used only very rarely. Conditions in each case are satisfactory.

6 Butchers' shops and 2 mobile meat shops are open in the district and each is inspected regularly.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed (if known)	163	135	200	547	1151	41
Number inspected	163	135	200	547	1151	41
<i>All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	8	1	3	7	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	4	8	—	40	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	3.6	11.8	0.5	7.2	1.4	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	2	—	—	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.2	1.5	—	—	0.4	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 4792 lbs.

BAKEHOUSES

Number in district . . .	10
Number of inspections . . .	17
Number of notices . . .	—

ICE CREAM PREMISES

Number of dealers on register .	52
---------------------------------	----

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food has been Condemned as unfit for human consumption:

6 lbs.	Corned Mutton.
385 lbs.	Corned Beef.
2 doz.	Imported Sheep Heads.
15 lbs.	Imported Cooked Ham.
66½ lbs.	Imported Beef.

WATER SUPPLIES

A piped supply of water is available in all parishes. In each case a borehole is the source of supply. There are 6 separate schemes, but these have been linked so that a deficiency at one bore may be augmented from another.

34 samples of water were taken from the various sources and were found to be of high bacteriological standard.

Reports on the chemical composition of the water from all the sources state that the water “is quite satisfactory for a public supply”.

A further water main extension has been carried out along the Ridgeway to the boundary of the Faringdon Rural District.

A scheme for the extension of water mains to the parish of Aldworth has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

SEWERAGE

Approval has been received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for improvements to the Harwell Sewerage System. The Council have also decided to carry out improvements at the East Hendred and Letcombe Regis Sewage Disposal Works. The East and West Hanney Sewage System was brought into operation during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

2509 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the refuse tips at Farnborough, Upton, East Ilsley and Hermitage. This represents an increase of 13.6% over the previous year's collection.

The protracted negotiations for the use of new disposal sites continued throughout the year. Early in the year the tip at East Ilsley was filled. During the rest of the year the tips at Farnborough and Sandy Lane, Hermitage were used. These tips are very small and as the new sites were not obtained as soon as was hoped the tip at Upton was re-opened for some months during the late summer.

A kerbside collection of refuse is made fortnightly throughout the district, with one housing estate near Wantage collected weekly.

Difficulties were again encountered in regard to staff at holiday times and during periods of sickness.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

All sewage tanks serving Council Houses are emptied once every month while cesspools are emptied once every two months. In addition, the vehicle is available for private work. During the year it was found possible to maintain the charge at the previous year's figure of £1 15s. 0d. per load, with reductions for subsequent loads, etc.

The following figures relate to the period now under review:

Number of emptyings of Council sewage tanks—121

Number of emptyings of Council cesspools—323.

Number of emptyings of Private tanks and cesspools—322.

Amount due to the Council—£810 6s. 10d.

Number of gallons of sewage pumped—1,206,100.

RODENT CONTROL

Two surveys of the whole district were carried out during the year.

Number of complaints received—227.

Number of infestations—468.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan sites at Harwell, Blewbury and Grove were licensed and in use during the year. In addition, there were 50 licences

under the Public Health Act 1936, Sec. 269 permitting the stationing and use of moveable dwellings in force for all or part of the year. Conditions in all cases were satisfactory.

HOUSING

During the year the selection of tenants for new Council Houses again formed an important part of the work of the Public Health Department.

New Council Houses were built and occupied as follows:

West Challow	8
Brightwalton	4
East Hendred	22
Compton	24
Harwell	3
Peasemore	10
East Ilsley	8
East Hanney	10
West Hanney	10
Upton	6

During the year the number of occupied hutments was reduced from 65 to 26.

Families were re-housed from unfit houses as follows:

West Hanney	2
East Ilsley	3
West Hendred	2
Compton	5
Peasmore	4
Harwell	2
Brightwalton	1
West Challow	1
Chilton	1
Upton	1
East Hendred	1
Letcombe Regis	1
Catmore	1

Houses in the following parishes were demolished during the year:

Peasemore	4
East Ilsley	3
Harwell	3

During the year 64 properties in the district were improved with the assistance of Improvement Grants made by the Council under the Housing Act, 1949.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1957

Number of different premises visited	2841
Number of inspections made	3692
Number of complaints received	314
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	287
Number of notices served: Informal	45
Statutory	4
Number of prosecutions	—
Number of nuisances abated	
As to privies and W.C.'s, sink wastes, etc.	7
As to drains and cesspools	27
As to pigs and other animals	1
As to deficient or impure water	6
As to unclean houses	1
As to polluted ditches and streams	2
As to insanitary accumulations and deposits	7
As to other defects or nuisances	53
Number of premises disinfected	12
Number of water samples for analysis (Public)	34
(Private)	9
Number of wells closed	—
Number of wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	—
Number of new houses connected to water mains	158
Number of water certificates granted (Rural District only)	—
Number of seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	98
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	54
Canal boats on register	—
Number of slaughter houses on register	4
Visits	432
Piggeries: Number of inspections	5
Number of retail dairies in district	9
Number of inspections	28

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	11	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	27	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	5	3	—	—
Total	74	41	3	—

